

REMARKS

Claims 24, 26, 27, 29, and 57-61 are pending in this application, of which Claims 24 and 27 are in independent form.

Independent Claim 24 is directed to an image processing device that comprises a scanner, for inputting an image signal, and a control unit, including a control circuit adapted for controlling the device and performing image processing necessary for copying on the image signal input from said scanner to provide a first processed image signal. The recited device also has a bidirectional interface, for transmitting the image signal input by the scanner under control of the control unit to an external computer, which performs image processing necessary for copying on the transmitted image signal, to provide a second processed image signal. The bidirectional interface also receives the second processed image signal from the external computer. Also, the device has an output circuit, adapted for outputting the first processed image signal and the second processed image signal to a printer. Also, according to Claim 24, the device has a plurality of modes, including a first copying mode, in which the image signal inputted from the scanner is outputted to the printer using the external computer, and a second

copying mode, in which the image signal inputted from the scanner is outputted to the printer without using the external computer. In the first copying mode, the image signal from the scanner is transmitted in order of: control unit, bidirectional interface, external computer, bidirectional interface, control unit, and output circuit, so as to perform copying based on the second processed image signal, while in the second copying mode, the image signal from the scanner is transmitted in order of: control unit and output circuit, so as to perform copying based on the first processed image signal.

According to Claim 24, therefore, the image processing device has first and second copying modes. In the first copying mode, the control unit of the image processing device controls the image signal inputted from the scanner to flow automatically in the recited order: the control unit, the bidirectional interface, the external computer, the bidirectional interface, the control unit, and the output circuit, to provide the image signal to the printer. Further, in the second mode, the control unit of the image processing device controls the image signal inputted from the scanner to flow automatically in the order of: the control

unit and the output circuit, to provide the image signal to the printer.

Accordingly, a normal copying operation (second copying mode) can be performed without using the external computer, whereas, in a case where a copying with a special process is required, the control unit controls to utilize the external computer to process the image signal (first copying mode). With this configuration, the structure of the image processing device can be simplified while easily and effectively utilizing the external device without requiring a user to operate the external device.

In contrast, the recited first copying mode is not seen to be taught or suggested by anything found in U.S. Patent 5,021,892 (Kita et al.), even if that patent is deemed to show a normal copying mode like the recited second copying mode.

According to Kita, (1) image input function and (2) image print function are effective only when the device 1 is operated under control of the personal computer 8 (column 6, lines 66-67). In other words, the image is inputted by the scanner because the personal computer 8 has instructed that this be done, and the image is printed by the printer because the personal computer 8 has instructed that

this be done. Thus, these operations are apparently controlled separately, and not automatically performed consecutively, in response to a single operation of the personal computer 8.

Furthermore, the image input function and the image print function in the *Kita* arrangement are performed under control of the personal computer, not under control of the device 1. Also, Applicants have found no idea in *Kita* about having an image input function and an image print function controlled by the device 1.

Applicants also note that, under the control of the personal computer 8, the copy function is performed in the same manner as when the device 1 is operated independent of the personal computer 8 (column 7, lines 21-25). This would correspond to the second copying mode recited in Claim 24 (if to anything).

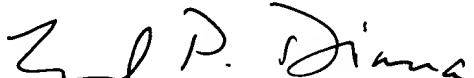
In summary, Applicants submit that nothing has been found, or pointed out, in *Kita* that would teach or suggest the first copying mode recited in Claim 24 performed under control of control unit of an image processing device, as recited in that claim, and thus, Applicants believe strongly that that Claim is allowable over *Kita*.

Since independent Claim 27 is a method Claim corresponding to device Claim 24, Claim 27 also is deemed to be clearly allowable over that patent.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

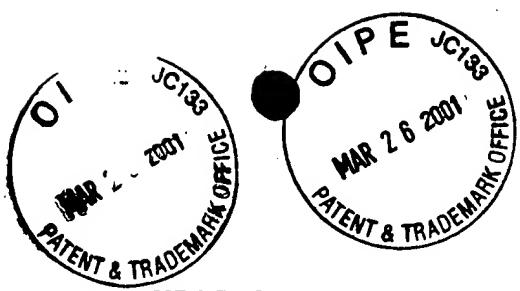


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VERSION OF CLAIMS MARKED TO SHOW CHANGES

For the Examiner's convenience, all the claims now in this application, whether currently being amended or not, are shown below:

24. (Amended) An image processing device comprising:
a scanner for inputting an image signal;
a control unit including a control circuit adapted for controlling said device and performing image processing necessary for copying on the image signal input from said scanner to provide a first processed image signal;
a bidirectional interface for transmitting the image signal input by said scanner under control of said control unit to an external computer, which performs image processing necessary for copying on the transmitted image signal to provide a second processed image signal, and for receiving the second processed image signal from the external computer; and
an output circuit adapted for outputting the first processed image signal and the second processed image signal to a printer,

wherein said device has a plurality of modes including a first copying mode, in which the image signal inputted from said scanner is outputted to said printer using the external computer, and a second copying [modes] mode, in which the image signal inputted from said scanner is outputted to said printer without using the external computer, the image signal from said scanner being transmitted in order of: said control unit, said bidirectional interface, the external computer, said bidirectional interface, said control unit, and said output circuit, in the first copying mode so as to perform copying based on the second processed image signal, and the image signal from said scanner being transmitted in order of: said control unit and said output circuit, in the second mode so as to perform copying based on the first processed image signal.

26. The device according to claim 24, wherein the external computer includes a modem capable of processing the image signal received through said bidirectional interface and transmitting the image signal to a public telephone line.

27. (Amended) An image processing method for an image processing device, said method comprising the steps of:

 inputting an image signal by a scanner;

 performing image processing necessary for copying on the input image signal by using a control unit for controlling the image processing device to provide a first processed image signal;

 transmitting the image signal input by the scanner under control of the control unit to an external computer via a bidirectional interface to be processed, by image processing necessary for copying, into a second processed image signal;

 receiving the second processed image signal from the external computer via the bidirectional interface;

 outputting the first or the second processed image signal to a printer via an output circuit;

 performing copying based on the second processed image signal in a first copying mode, in which the image signal inputted from the scanner is outputted to the printer using the external computer by transmitting the image signal from the scanner in order of: the control unit, the bidirectional interface, the external computer, the

bidirectional interface, the control unit, and the output circuit; and

performing copying based on the first processed image signal in a second copying mode, in which the image signal inputted from the scanner is outputted to the printer using the external computer by transmitting the image signal from the scanner in order of: the control unit and the output circuit.

29. The method according to claim 27, wherein the transmitted image signal is processed by the external computer and transmitted to a public telephone line.

57. The image processing device according to claim 24, wherein said output circuit includes a bidirectional interface.

58. The image processing device according to claim 24, wherein said scanner generates a color image signal.

59. The image processing device according to claim 24, wherein said control unit has a density adjusting function.

60. (New) The device according to claim 24, wherein image processing which can not be performed in the second copying mode is performed in the first copying mode.

61. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein image processing which can not be performed in the second copying mode is performed in the first copying mode.